

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3987

INFO AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JA PRIORITY

CG 5TH AF FUCHU JA PRIORITY

CG 313TH AD KADENA OKINAWA PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10695

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: IE SHIMA: DUMMY NUCLEAR WEAPONS TRAINING

REF: TOKYO 10155

SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA) HAS ASKED US TO
RECONSIDER USE OF IE SHIMA FOR DUMMY NUCLEAR TRAINING BUT REITERATED
THAT IT DOES NOT EXPECT US TO STOP SUCH TRAINING. GUIDANCE REQUESTED

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END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING 14TH SCG MEETING AUGUST 14TH, MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS
DIRGEN YAMAZAKI CONTINUED WITH DCM AND POL COUNSELOR DISCUSSION OF
DUMMY NUCLEAR WEAPONS TRAINING WHICH YAMAZAKI HAD RAISED IN SCG
MEETING. YAMAZAKI STRESSED THAT MOFA HAD TO FOLLOW UP ON KIMURA
DIET COMMITMENT (REFTEL) TO ASK USG IF SUCH TRAINING WAS CONDUCTED
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AT IE SHIMA AND, IF SO, TO ASK USG TO RECONSIDER THIS TRAINING

IN THE LIGHT OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE'S FEELINGS REGARDING NUCLEAR MATTERS. AS FIRST STEP IN FULFILLING COMMITMENT, YAMAZAKI ASKED IF GOJ COULD CONFIRM PUBLICLY THAT SUCH TRAINING HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN JULY.

2. DCM TOLD YAMAZAKI THAT US FORCES CONSIDERED THIS TRAINING ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN THE PROFICIENCY OF THE UNITS AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED AND THAT HE COULD NOT FORESEE USG AGREEMENT TO STOP THIS TRAINING. HE WAS THEREFORE DISTURBED THAT APPEARANCE OF A CONFRONTATION WAS DEVELOPING IN WHICH US SIDE WOULD SEEM TO IGNORE JAPANESE SENTIMENT BY INSISTING ON TRAINING WHICH IN FACT WAS COMPLETELY IN ACCORD WITH SECURITY TREATY. RATHER THAN APPROACHING THIS PROBLEM ONE STEP AT A TIME, DCM SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO SIDES FIRST AGREE ON HOW THEY COULD RESOLVE THE PROBLEM AND THEN DEVISE A SCENARIO TO ACHIEVE THIS.

3. YAMAZAKI REPEATED YAMASHITA'S EARLIER ASSURANCES (REFTEL) THAT GOJ DID NOT EXPECT USG AGREEMENT TO STOP TRAINING, AND THAT EVENTUAL OUTCOME WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH TRAINING IS PROPER UNDER MST. MOFA, HOWEVER, MUST FOLLOW THROUGH ON KIMURA PLEDGE IN DIET. YAMASHITA ADDED THAT SITUATION FURTHER COMPLICATED FOR GOJ BY THEN-FONMIN FUKUDA'S 1972 STATEMENT TO DIET THAT GOJ WOULD ASK US TO STOP TRAINING WITH DUMMY NUCLEAR WEAPONS AFTER REVERSION. GOJ NEEDED QTE SOMETHING NEW UNQTE TO HELP JUSTIFY EVENTUAL MOFA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT US WOULD CONTINUE TO CONDUCT DUMMY TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH MST. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS US COULD AGREE TO REDUCE SUCH TRAINING.

4. DCM SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD MOFA PROBLEM BUT THAT REDUCTIONS IN TRAINING NOT POSSIBLE. HE REPORTED THAT US SIDE WAS EXAMINING RECORDS OF SUCH TRAINING SINCE REVERSION. IF EXAMINATION REVEALED A RECENT CHANGE IN TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND USAGE, THIS MIGHT POSSIBLY BE HELPFUL TO GOJ IN EXPLAINING SITUATION. ALTERNATIVELY US MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WOULD CONDUCT TRAINING ONLY TO THE MINIMUM EXTENT REQUIRED. YAMAZAKI THOUGHT SUCH A STATEMENT MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

5. YAMAZAKI SAID THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER HIS APPROACH TO BE THE MOFA'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION BUT HE AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE KEPT ON AN INFORMAL, UNPUBLICIZED BASIS UNTIL WE HAD AGREED CONFIDENTIAL

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ON A SCENARIO.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH KIMURA'S DIET STATEMENT HAS CREATED PROBLEMS FOR BOTH SIDES, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS IN A WAY WHICH DOES NOT IMPINGE ON ESSENTIAL TRAINING WITH DUMMY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HOWEVER, MOFA WILL HAVE AN OBVIOUS PROBLEM IN SQUARING THIS OUTCOME WITH FUKUDA'S EARLIER STATEMENT (TO WHICH US DID NOT AGREE) AND EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD COOPERATE TO EXTENT

POSSIBLE IN EASING THIS PROBLEM. BELIEVE THAT GOJ WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL IF WE WILLING TO AUTHORIZE IT TO STATE THAT 1) MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH USG WHICH HAD EXPLAINED IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO CONTINUATION OF SUCH TRAINING, WHICH BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZE AS CONSISTENT WITH MST, BUT 2) USG HAD ASSURED GOJ THAT, HAVING IN MIND SENSITIVITY OF JAPANESE PEOPLE, SUCH TRAINING WOULD NOT BE CONDUCTED MORE THAN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO REQUEST TO RECONSIDER DUMMY NUCLEAR WEAPON TRAINING AT IE SHIMA.
HODGSON

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